

'Andropov's Kindergarten'

Contrary to the rubbish flooding the Western media, the Sept. 30 Soviet Central Committee Plenum did not demote KGB boss **Viktor Chebrikov**; it promoted him to "czar" of all the internal security organs of the U.S.S.R., making him the most powerful KGB figure since Lavrenti Beria after the death of Stalin. Politburo member Chebrikov was named a Central Committee Secretary, the only new addition to the CC Secretariat, which runs the party machine. He now heads one of the six newly established CC Commissions, the one on Questions of Legal Policy, which has charge of law and order questions, and of the CC's Administrative Organs Department, which oversees the KGB, the military, the interior ministry, and the judiciary and state prosecution apparatus. As *EIR* reported on Feb. 5, 1988, two officers from the Soviet Army's High Command West, run by Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov, Generals Lt. I.A. Larin and N. Shlyaga, became leaders in the Administrative Organs Department during 1987.

This also marks the first time since the spring of 1982, with Yuri Andropov's promotion to the CC Secretariat, that a KGB boss holds simultaneous membership on the Politburo and Secretariat. Six months after Andropov's promotion, he became general secretary. Any forecasts concerning Chebrikov at this time are out of order, but he is certainly a prime contender for the succession, should Gorbachov not survive the crisis.

Chebrikov's coup capped the vast increase in the institutional power of the KGB scored at the plenum. The

key promotions involved, without exception, extremely close associates of the late Yuri Andropov:

Vadim Medvedev, promoted to full membership on the Politburo and number four on the CC Secretariat (after, in order of protocol, Gorbachov, Yegor Ligachov, and Lev Zaikov). Medvedev was a close associate of Andropov going back to the late 1960s. His promotion demonstrates that solving internal and Eastern European problems has the highest priority. Since 1986, Medvedev, an economic expert, has headed the CC department for relations with "ruling parties," i.e., the East bloc.

Boris Pugo, KGB career officer, was appointed to the powerful post of chairman of the Party Control Commission, which oversees and executes party purges. Before becoming party boss in Latvia in 1984, Pugo headed the KGB in Latvia (1980-84). Pugo's taking over the Party Control Commission from Politburo member Mikhail Solomentsev marks the transfer of control over the purge apparatus from the party to the KGB.

Vladimir Kryuchkov was appointed Chebrikov's successor as KGB head. Kryuchkov was perhaps the closest confidant of the late Yuri Andropov. Their relationship dated back to 1955-56, when Andropov was ambassador to Hungary, and KGB officer Kryuchkov was Third Secretary at the Soviet Embassy in Budapest. In 1957, when Andropov was named CC Department head for East bloc relations, he appointed Kryuchkov to head the Hungarian sector. In 1967, when Andropov became KGB head, Kryuchkov was appointed deputy head of the KGB First Main Directorate (foreign intelligence), then first deputy head, and finally, from 1974 to the present, head of KGB Intelligence.—*Konstantin George*

that Munich "Potemkin Village" provided many networks, and institutions of Germany (and elsewhere) a friendly *Kneipe* (tavern), where Strauss the back-slapping, tough-talking tavern-keeper, played host. The strategic significance of the death of Strauss is that, with the tavern-keeper dead, the *Kneipe* is closed indefinitely. Now, the habitués who used to meet there, have no such place to go; to that degree, important connecting links have been broken.

Strauss was murdered while on a hunting trip, hosted by Johannes Prinz von Thurn und Taxis. He had just recently escaped death, while returning from an earlier hunting trip, hosted by Bulgaria's Bogomil Commissar-King Todor Zhivkov. A curious failure of the cabin-pressure system, forced pilot Strauss to dive from 11,000 meters, narrowly escaping death. Soon, he was dead, on the same weekend as the succession of special events in Moscow.

Could the Chekists prediscuss the strategic after-effects of such a Strauss death? Certainly. In the world of KGB

assassinations, where accidents are seldom accidental, there are virtually no accidental fatalities: When death follows an unsuccessful putative accident shortly before, and that death comes of putative cardiac arrhythmia, with kidney and lung shock, so suddenly, the possibility that an accident is an accident drops toward fractions of a single percentage point.

2. Conspiracy and tragedy

To the degree that history is shaped by conspiracy of a significant duration, those facts of the sort usually regarded as possible evidence of conspiracy, are merely an outgrowth of a true, much deeper, less conscious conspiracy among the participants. In chief, most durable conspiracies, especially of the sort which bridge successive generations, have the primary form of a political-philosophical coincidence of views, aiming at the undermining of the influence of some contrary political-philosophical current.

Usually, one does not choose to participate in a conspir-